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Merry-Go-Round  
Mishandled  
Russians

BY DREW PEARSON

**EN ROUTE THROUGH EUROPE** — Here are some spot observations gathered in Germany regarding one of the most important problems we face in preventing war or winning a war after it gets started.

High Commissioner Jack McCloy, who is performing a remarkably fine job, is supposed to be top man in Germany.

He can and does set aside German court decrees. He can give or withhold American money, the life blood of Europe. He can order the American Army to get out of this area or into that.

But when it comes to Russians escaped from behind the Iron Curtain, McCloy has as much influence with the Army as a Communist youth demonstrator in the East Zone of Germany. The military flouts his orders and thumbs its nose at McCloy.

Perhaps because of this, the young socialite Central Intelligence agents of Gen. Bedell Smith and the amateur detectives in Counter Intelligence do such a successful job of alienating these Russian escapees that a lot of them decide Soviet Russia is better than the much-vaunted West and return home.

Just outside Frankfurt is a Russian refugee camp.

In this camp at one time were about 2,000 Russian officers, who, disgusted with the Red Army, had fled to the American Zone, anxious to help the U.S.A.

But for months they simply sat, ate, and were interviewed by young Counter Intelligence agents—ate, sat, and were interviewed; ate, slept, and were interviewed.

Some were flown to the United States amid a flurry of excitement to report on conditions inside Russia to higher-ups in the Pentagon. Some were promised haven in the U.S.A. In the end all were reduced to sitting, waiting, and going to seed — thanks to the sterility, inefficiency and lack of imagination of the Army and Gen. Smith's amateur Dick Tracys.

## RESTLESS RED ARMY—

Across the invisible Iron Curtain in the East Zone of Germany are about 300,000 members of the Red Army. Living in Germany, a country with which they all too recently fought a bitter war, these troops long had to camp behind barbed wire.

This was not to keep the German population away from them, but to keep the Russians from deserting. Even so, many of them did desert—and more would desert if given encouragement or any kind of favorable treatment after their arrival in the West.

Obviously Moscow knows that these troops, living near the West, and with no tight border control between East and West, constitute one of the potential weaknesses of the Red Army.

Undoubtedly Moscow also remembers what many Americans have forgotten—that it was not the Kaiser's army that defeated the Czar in 1917, but the shrewdness of the German general staff in sending Trotsky and Lenin in a sealed train from Switzerland into Russia.

Moscow certainly should remember it, for that was what started the Bolshevik revolution and put Stalin where he is today.

And remembering it, Stalin certainly doesn't want it to happen—in reverse—again.

**KERENSKY UNITES** — Dining in Munich the other night, I discussed some of these things with gnarled, spritely Alexander Kerensky, father of the first Russian revolution, who, if not upset by Lenin, Trotsky and the German general staff, might have saved Russia and the world the scourge of Communism.

Kerensky had come to Munich to do a job that has added doing for years—wrapping all the diverse Russian exile groups into one close-knit body in order to do to Stalin what Lenin and Trotsky once did to Kerensky.

These groups are about as diverse and difficult to get along with as some of the groups within the heterogeneous Union of Soviet Russia.

However, it seemed to me that this meeting of Russian factions in Munich is the most encouraging thing that has happened for a long time. For if and when they get together, they can do two things:

1—Beam propaganda into Russia, that comes from Russians, not from Americans who have an ax to grind.

2—Work out a system for screening recent Russian escapees and getting them settled where they can help in the future.